

The Eighty-seventh Annual Report

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
MASSACHUSETTS

For the Year 1939

Officers and Staff of the Free Public Library

Trustees

LEO E. J. CARNEY Mayor of the City

Elected by the City Council

REV. LINDEN H. WHITE	Term expires April, 1940
FRANK P. SHEA	Term expires April, 1940
JOSEPH P. TRUDEL	Term expires April, 1941
FRANK VERA	Term expires April, 1941
CAROLYN S. MANNING	Term expires April, 1942
T. EVERETT McPEAKE	Term expires April, 1942

Committees

On Library—

MESSRS. McPEAKE, VERA, and TRUDEL

On Buildings—

REV. LINDEN H. WHITE, MESSRS. SHEA, and VERA

On Finance—

REV. LINDEN H. WHITE, MESSRS. SHEA, and TRUDEL

On Branches—

MRS. MANNING, MESSRS. McPEAKE, and TRUDEL

STAFF

Librarian

HARLAND A. CARPENTER

Assistant Librarian

CLEMENT L. YAEGER

Cataloguer

ANNA G. CABRAL

Librarian's Secretary

MINERVA F. MAXFIELD

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Heads of Departments

ALICE H. TRIPP Reference Librarian
 JANE E. GARDNER Art Librarian
 CLAIRE N. RILEY Children's Librarian
 GRACE D. SHERMAN Circulation
 L. GERTRUDE WILCOX Genealogical Librarian

Assistants

EDITH H. BRODHEAD JANE T. THURSTON
 ELSIE COLLINS MARION H. BONNER
 ETHEL WILCOX LUCY M. LAGASSE
 STELLA M. FERGUSON MARJORIE COBB
 MARIA E. MAXFIELD CHARLOTTE S. NYE
 GERTRUDE RUSITZKY

Branches

North Branch AMANDA DION
 JEANIE D. SHIELDS
 South Branch PAULA KENNEDY
 KATHLEEN U. LAWLESS
 STELLA PATLA
 West Branch CLOTILDA KOBZA
 West Branch Reading Room FLORENCE E. PERRY

Pages

SYLVIA CIABURRI JOHN COYNE
 MARION MCGREGOR DORIS SANDERSON
 DEOLINDA PERRY BURNICE PIERCE
 LEOLA DESMARAIS

Elevator Operators

FRED SENFT CLIFTON N. HATCH

Janitors

GEORGE SUNDERLAND GARRISON L. OLIVER
 GEORGE BRIGHTMAN

Cleaners

CHRISTINE KOZOREK ELEANOR WILLIAMS
 ELEANOR HOUGHTON MARY E. MORROW

Trustees' Report

January 26, 1940

*To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of New
Bedford, Mass.*

The Trustees present their Eighty-seventh Annual Report to the City Council in the Report of the Librarian, which has been adopted by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

HARLAND A. CARPENTER,

Clerk of the Board.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

To the Trustees of the Free Public Library:

I herewith submit the Eighty-seventh Annual Report of the Free Public Library of New Bedford.

Once every twelve months libraries, in common with other organizations of all kinds, pause to consider the total accomplishments of the year just finished, and at the same time the progress made toward the completion of the more comprehensive plan of development which may require several years for its perfection. During 1939 many changes were made in methods of service and various projects previously begun were pushed toward completion.

The circulation of books for home use from all library agencies totalled 558,635 volumes. Total figures for 1939 cannot be compared with any degree of accuracy with the circulation in 1938 since the change in method of reporting the use of school deposits has eliminated the school reports for four months. At the end of 1939 there were 29,232 library card holders. This represents 25.9% of the 112,597 people living in New Bedford. Owing to the cancellation of thousands of inactive cards during the last twelve months, the total registration appears much smaller than at the end of 1938, but the latest figures represent more nearly actual active borrowers of books. Such statistics as these only tell a part of the story that would give an adequate conception of the service rendered day by day to questing patrons, either directly to those who come to the library, or by telephone, or by mail.

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS

Each year the staff of the Genealogical Department spend a large part of their time assembling and indexing fugitive material relevant to the areas of local history of particular significance to the library. Each year the record of out-of-town visitors testifies to the importance of the large collection of reference material found in this department.

The Art Department reports a general increase in the use of its resources. The addition of a number of new books to the music collection has attracted many new users from among both professional and amateur musicians. Exhibitions of garden books at the annual garden show of the Garden Club of Greater New Bedford and in the windows of Julius, the Florist, have sent more people to books for gardening advice. The systematic discarding of obsolete books and the retirement of little used volumes to the stacks has made the shelves more attractive and selection of books by the public much easier.

Toward the end of the year the addition of a magazine rack in the Art Department released another table, formerly used to display current periodicals, for the convenience of students using the reference material.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

No better idea of the important work unostentatiously carried on by the reference staff may be obtained than from the following quotation from the report of the reference librarian. "It is interesting to look back over the year 1939 as depicted, day by day, in the diary kept in the Reference Room. There seems to be no very outstanding features, but rather it might be called a 'whatsoever' year in which there has been a continual striving to answer the questions which have each day been presented. In these questions, many and exceedingly varied, we get a cross section of the life of the community and indications that the library comes quickly to mind when help is needed and that a certain amount of confidence is felt in its resources."

Frequently in the evening there are more readers than chairs. This situation should be remedied by moving the periodicals to the newspaper room.

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

In spite of the allurements of the "movies," clubs, sports, radio and the many other attractive interests designed particularly for boys and girls, the circulation of children's books at the main library and the three branches has shown a sizeable increase of 5,738 books over last year, or a gain of approximately 4%.

The library is now beginning to see the results of the school program begun two years ago which includes annual visits by the children's librarian to all 4th grades of the public schools, and instruction in the use of the library for each of the 7th grades in the junior high schools without school libraries.

The library has begun the extension of its school program to include the parochial schools of the city. As a beginning the 156 teachers in the 17 parochial schools met in the library lecture hall to hear brief talks on the service of the library by the librarian, the children's librarian and the head of the Art Department. A list of 200 selected books recommended for Catholic boys and girls was compiled by the children's librarian and distributed at this meeting. The enthusiastic response already manifested by these teachers is gratifying.

From January to May a member of the staff of the Juvenile Department told stories once each week at the Boys' Club. In the school vacation period, a highly successful Vacation Reading Club was conducted. The enrollment in this club was 322.

In the fall an inventory of books in the Juvenile Department was begun. No complete inventory of these books has been taken for more than thirty years. First results show that fewer books are missing than had been anticipated.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

As was to be expected, because fewer books could be purchased during the year, the total circulation in the branch libraries was less than in 1938.

The circulation at the branches in 1938 and 1939 was as follows:

	1938	1939	Increase or Loss
North	72,159	67,024	5,135 loss
South	114,206	109,202	5,004 loss
West	29,562	30,038	476 increase

Although better employment conditions may account for a part of this decrease, it is probable that more new books would have helped to maintain the circulation record at its 1938 level with, perhaps, a slight increase.

GIFTS

Several works of art have been given the library by friends interested in making the library one of the important cultural centers of the community.

Mrs. Oliver L. Loring presented a bronze plaque of Robert Louis Stevenson by St. Gaudens.

Miss Marie L. Chauvelot gave a tempera portrait of herself painted by Charles Hawthorne.

Mrs. Katherine L. M. Cook presented an intaglio, "Dawn," by Walton Ricketson, and two oil paintings, a landscape by P. M. Colyar, and a scene of a shipwreck by Charles H. Gifford.

Mr. Henry P. Burt gave one of his own paintings, "Old Squaws."

Mr. George A. Thomson gave his large collection of the publications of amateur journalists.

The outstanding gifts of books and periodicals were:

51 books from Mrs. Myron Briggs.

96 books from the estate of Mrs. Elizabeth B. Mackie.

20 books and 312 periodicals from

Miss Flora Matthews.

58 books from Mrs. William Sheehy.

227 books from Mrs. Walter E. Turner in memory of
Walter E. Turner.

PERSONNEL

During the summer three assistants attended summer sessions at library schools. Miss Anne Cabral and Miss Gertrude Rusitzky studied at Columbia University and Miss Stella Patla at Pennsylvania State College.

In June Mrs. Mary P. Almeida retired from the cleaning force. She had been a faithful employee for twenty-four years.

Needs

Our needs for the future are much the same as enumerated last year. They require reiteration until the means is provided for taking care of them.

1. More money for books.
2. New floors in Juvenile Room and Reference Room.
3. Binding whaling logs.
4. Repair paintings.
5. Provision of adequate storage facilities for rare books and special collections.
6. Combination of periodical reading room with newspaper reading room.
7. Re-location of North and West Branch libraries.

Planning for the future is requisite to the progress of any institution. If one of these needs listed above could be made a special project each year they would soon be realized.

Finally I wish to express thanks to the merchants and organizations of the city including the Cushing Leather Store, Julius, the Florist, and the Garden Club of Greater New Bedford for assisting the library in extending the knowledge of books on special subjects.

The New Bedford newspaper and Radio Station WNBH have always been ready to spread the news of library events and services.

Respectfully submitted,

HARLAND A. CARPENTER.

Librarian.

STATISTICS IN FORM RECOMMENDED BY THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Annual Report for year ended December 31, 1939

Name of Library — New Bedford Free Public Library.

City — New Bedford. State — Massachusetts.

Name of Librarian — Harland A. Carpenter.

Date of Founding — 1852

Population served — 112,597

What governmental unit served? City.

Terms of use —

Free for lending.

Free for reference.

Total number of agencies — 187

Consisting of Central Library and 3 Branches.

Other agencies: 180 School deposits and classroom libraries,

1 hospital, 2 summer camps.

Number of days open during the year	363
Hours open each week for lending	72
Hours open each week for reading	79
Hours of service per week required of staff	40
Number of Sundays open during the year	53
Hours open each Sunday (for reading and reference)	7

BOOK STOCK

Number of volumes at beginning of year	208,902
Number of volumes added during year	6,546
Number of volumes withdrawn during year	2,532
Total number of volumes at end of year	212,916
Number of newspapers currently received	
excluding duplicates	36

Number of periodicals currently received excluding duplicates	355
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CIRCULATION AND USE

Number of volumes of adult nonfiction lent for home use	66,461
Number of volumes of adult fiction lent for home use	246,643
Number of books for children lent for home use	245,531
Total number of volumes lent for home use	558,635

REGISTRATION

Total number of registered borrowers	29,232
Borrowers registered or reregistered during year	7,278
The length of the registration period is 3 years.	

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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CITY APPROPRIATION

Appropriation		\$53,750.00
Salaries	\$35,214.81	
Wages	13,764.30	
Supplies	995.64	
Janitor's Supplies	482.16	
Repairs	286.04	
Heating Branches	363.30	
Lighting Branches	516.03	
Express and Carting	172.40	
Telephones	405.67	
Building Miscellany	237.91	
Insurance	223.20	
Library Miscellany	150.46	
Postage	234.56	
Printing	275.96	
Stationery	49.17	
Furniture and Equipment	342.66	
	<hr/>	
	\$53,714.27	
Balance	35.73	
	<hr/>	
		\$53,750.00

KEMPTON FUND

Balance	\$1.93	
Receipts	\$8,776.67	
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		\$8,778.60
Books	\$5,630.26	
Periodicals	1,170.35	
Binding Books	872.94	
Binding Periodicals	67.62	
Supplies	242.92	
Janitor's Supplies	66.00	
Repairs	24.78	
Express and Carting	119.50	
Postage	78.00	
Printing	190.78	

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Miscellany	91.37
Building Miscellany	23.51

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	\$8,578.03
Balance	200.57
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\$3,778.60

SYLVIA ANN HOWLAND FUND

Balance	\$.46
Receipts	1,560.08

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	\$1,560.54

Books	\$938.60
Periodicals	187.76
Binding Books	259.74
Binding Periodicals	123.73
Supplies	.30

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	\$1,560.13
Balance	.41
	<hr/>

\$1,560.54

GEORGE O. CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$11.84
Receipts	419.94

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	\$431.78

Books	\$416.40
Printing	11.75
Supplies	1.23

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	\$429.38
Balance	2.40
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\$431.78

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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JAMES B. CONGDON FUND

Balance	\$.26	
Receipts	12.50	
	<hr/>	\$12.76
Books	\$11.96	
	<hr/>	
	\$11.96	
Balance	.80	
	<hr/>	\$12.76

CHARLES W. MORGAN FUND

Balance	\$.15	
Receipts	\$25.00	
	<hr/>	\$25.15
Books	\$17.00	
Periodicals	4.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$21.00	
Balance	4.15	
	<hr/>	\$25.15

CHARLES L. WOOD FUND

Balance	\$.55	
Receipts	50.00	
	<hr/>	\$50.55
Books	\$43.17	
	<hr/>	
	\$43.17	
Balance	2.38	
	<hr/>	\$50.55

GEORGE HOWLAND, JR. FUND

Balance	\$1.14	
Receipts	40.00	
	<hr/>	\$41.14

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FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Books	\$33.50	
	<hr/>	
	\$33.50	
Balance	7.64	
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		\$41.14

OLIVER CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$.17	
Receipts	25.00	
	<hr/>	
		\$25.17
Books	\$20.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$20.00	
Balance	5.17	
	<hr/>	
		\$25.17

ELIZABETH B. MACKIE FUND

Receipts	\$14.58	
	<hr/>	
		\$14.58
Books	\$13.87	
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	\$13.87	
Balance	.71	
	<hr/>	
		\$14.58

DUPLICATE PAY

Balance	\$174.72	
Receipts	143.37	
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		\$318.09
Books	\$172.84	
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	\$172.84	
Balance	145.25	
	<hr/>	
		\$318.09

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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FINANCE

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES	
		OPERATING EXPENSES	
City appropriation	\$53,750.00	Salaries: Library staff	\$40,226.90
Income from trust funds	10,923.77	Salaries: Building staff	8,752.21
Gifts	10.00	Books	7,362.15
Rental collection	143.37	Periodicals	1,362.11
		Binding and rebinding	1,324.03
		Heat, light power,	933.73
		Insurance	223.20
		Other operating expenses	4,428.37
		Grand Total	\$64,612.70
Total	<u>\$64,827.14</u>	Total operating exp.	<u>\$64,612.70</u>
* Unexpended balance from		Balance on hand at end of	
previous year	197.30	fiscal year	405.66
* \$6.03 of this balance reverted			
to the City.			

ANNUAL REPORT
TRUSTEES OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

IN CITY COUNCIL, February 23, 1940
Referred to Councillor Eccleston for study and report.

CHARLES W. DEASY, City Clerk

IN CITY COUNCIL, March 14, 1940
Received, placed on file and ordered printed in the city
documents.

CHARLES W. DEASY, City Clerk

Presented to the Mayor for approval March 18, 1940

CHARLES W. DEASY, City Clerk

Approved March 18, 1940.

LEO E. J. CARNEY, Mayor

A true copy, attest:

CHARLES W. DEASY, City Clerk